

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY  
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>W1.2343PCT</b>	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. <b>PCT/EP2004/051188</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>22.06.2004</b>	Priority date (day/month/year) <b>11.07.2003</b>
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC <b>B41F27/12</b>		
Applicant <b>KOENIG &amp; BAUER AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT</b>		

1.	This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.	
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of <b>11</b> sheets, including this cover sheet.	
3.	This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of <b>5</b> sheets, as follows: <input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).	
4.	This report contains indications relating to the following items: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application	

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

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Box No. I

Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_\_ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-24 \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished
- pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.\* 1-24 \_\_\_\_\_ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/12-12/12 \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

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Box No. IV

Lack of unity of invention

1. ☒ In response to the invitation to restrict or pay additional fees the applicant has:
- ☐ restricted the claims.
  - ☒ paid additional fees.
  - ☐ paid additional fees under protest.
  - ☐ neither restricted the claims nor paid additional fees.
2. ☐ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose, according to Rule 68.1, not to invite the applicant to restrict or pay additional fees.
3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is:
- ☐ complied with.
  - ☒ not complied with for the following reasons:

**See Supplemental Box**

4. Consequently, this report has been established in respect of the following parts of the international application:

☒ all parts.☐ the parts relating to claims Nos. \_\_\_\_\_

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

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**Box No. V** Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

## 1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-17, 20, 21, 23, 24	YES
	Claims	18, 19, 22	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-17, 20, 21, 23, 24	YES
	Claims	18, 19, 22	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-24	YES
	Claims		NO

## 2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

1. This report makes reference to the following documents:

D1: EP-A-0 734 860

D2: PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, Vol. 2000, No. 19, 5  
June 2001, & JP2001047604A (MITSUBISHI HEAVY IND  
LTD), 20 February 2001

D3: EP-A-0 679 513

2. Invention I:

Document D1, which is regarded as the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1, discloses (cf. references in the search report) a device for supplying and/or removing a printing form (120), the device having a storage unit (102) with a shaft (123) for receiving a printing form to be removed from the cylinder (101) and a loading shaft (124) for a new printing form to be supplied, as well as at least one conveyor means (103) for conveying the printing form in the storage unit. The conveyor means is associated with both shafts and comprises holding means (106, 105) associated with the receiving shaft and with

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Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;  
citations and explanations supporting such statement

the loading shaft.

Moreover, the vertical loading and unloading shafts are closed at their bottom in D1 (cf. figures 4 and 5). This closure should be understood as holding means fixed to the frame, within the meaning of claim 1.

The subject matter of claim 1 therefore differs from the device described in D1 in that the connection which can be established with the holding means fixed to the frame is a frictional connection.

Claim 1 is therefore novel.

According to the application, a frictional connection between the holding means and the printing form, unlike a simple form-fit, permits the use of printing forms of various formats without requiring a re-adjustment and/or additional recesses, hooks, stops or the like.

The searched documents, either alone or in combination, cannot suggest a subject matter having the features of claim 1 for the stated purpose.

Claim 1 therefore involves an inventive step and, together with the advantageous developments in dependent claims 2-17, meets the requirements of PCT Article 33(1) to 33(4).

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
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It should be noted that, for reasons of clarity (PCT Article 6), the last holding means mentioned in claim 1 should have been specified to be "fixed to the frame".

3. Invention II:

The present application does not meet the requirements of PCT Article 33(1) because the subject matter of claims 18 and 19 is not novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

Document D1 describes a process for supplying and/or removing a printing form (120) by means of a shaft (123) for receiving a printing form to be removed from the cylinder (101), a loading shaft (124) for a new printing form to be supplied and a storage unit (102) with conveyor means (103), the new printing form being conveyed from the loading shaft (124) to the cylinder (101) and the printing form to be removed being moved from the cylinder into the receiving shaft (123) by the same conveyor means (103) associated with both shafts (123; 124). Document D1 also describes (cf., in particular, column 4, line 43 - column 5, line 34) that, when a new printing form is to be supplied to the cylinder, holding means (105) associated with the loading shaft (123) are activated on the conveyor means (103) and holding means (104) associated with the receiving shaft (123) are deactivated on the conveyor means (103), and that, when a printing form is to be removed from the

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
	<p>cylinder, holding means (106) associated with the receiving shaft (123) are activated on the conveyor means (103) and holding means (105) associated with the loading shaft (124) are deactivated on the same conveyor means (103).</p> <p>Claims 18 and 19 are therefore anticipated by D1.</p> <p>4. Invention III:</p> <p>The present application does not meet the requirements of PCT Article 33(1) because the subject matter of claim 22 is not novel (PCT Article 33(2)).</p> <p>Document D2 describes (cf. the abstract, and in particular figure 3c, of the Japanese document) a process for removing a printing form (13) by means of a storage unit (20a) and a compression device (45) having at least one roller (26) which can be alternatively pressed and released, the swivelling of a roller (27) associated with the storage means (20a) bending the printing form (13) at least temporarily in an end phase of its unwinding from the cylinder (9a) in such a way that the bending of the printing plate imparts a torque to the forward end, which can thus escape more easily from the channel.</p> <p>5. Invention IV:</p> <p>Document D3, which is regarded as the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 23, discloses (cf. the references in the search</p>

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report) a process for removing a printing form (1) by means of a storage unit (2) and a compression device (11) which can be switched on and off and has at least one roller (9, 10) which can be alternatively pressed and released. The process as per claim 23 differs therefrom in that, at least temporarily in an end phase of the unwinding from the cylinder, the entire compression device or a crossbeam that carries the rollers is swivelled so as to bring the compression device with its rollers from a position closer to the cylinder to a position further away from the cylinder. Claim 23 is therefore novel.

According to the description (cf. page 16, paragraph 4), the features of claim 23 solve the problem which consists in making it easier for the forward end of the printing plate to leave the channel.

The searched documents, either alone or in combination, cannot suggest a subject matter having the features of claim 23 for the stated purpose.

Claim 23 therefore involves an inventive step and, together with the advantageous development in dependent claim 24, meets the requirements of PCT Article 33(1) to 33(4).



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Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

Contrary to PCT Rule 5.1(a)(iii), the description is not  
in line with the claims.

## Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of:

**BOX IV****Lack of unity of invention**

The International Searching Authority has determined that this international application contains multiple (groups of) inventions which are not linked by a single general inventive concept (PCT Rule 13.1), as follows:

I: Claim 1

"holding means fixed to a frame and having a frictional connection"

II: Claims 18 and 19

"control of the holding means arranged on the conveyor means when supplying and removing the printing plates"

III: Claim 22

"bending the forward end of the printing plate by means of a roller in order to release it from the channel"

IV: Claim 23

"increasing the distance between the rollers and the cylinder in the unwinding end phase"

The general concept that links independent claims 1, 18 and 19, 22 and 23, and their respective groups of claims, is essentially that of a "device or process for supplying and/or removing a printing form to/from a cylinder, using

## Supplemental Box

a loading and unloading shaft, conveyor means with printing form holding means mounted thereon, and a roller that can be pressed and released".

These common features are all known from document EP-A-0734860 (D1) and are thus not novel.

The remaining features in each of the claims are not corresponding features and solve different problems.

Consequently, there is no technical relationship between independent claims 1, 18 and 19, 22 and 23, and their respective groups of claims, within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2, and the requirement of PCT Rule 13.1 for unity of invention is not met.